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WILLIAM B. SLATEFAX COVER LETTERTO: Examiner C. A. FiorillaFROM: Gregory P. LaPointeFAX NO.: 1-703-872-9535DATE: October 29, 2002YOUR REF.: 09/623,268OUR REF.: 00-497PAGES: 3 including this sheetUrgent XXX For Review

Please Comment also properly final

Confirmation Copy to Follow: Yes XXX No

* Comments:

Attached are proposed claim amendments.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by telephone or telefax and advise us if any pages are not readily legible or have not been received.

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10/29 - Told Mr. LaPointe I would look over and call early during the week of 11/4-11/8

11/4 - called Mr. LaPointe left him message explaining why amendment doesn't overcome rejection.

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11/4 he called (203) 789-0582

11/4 - called and left message. I told him finally was proper since limitation was proper which followed "preferably" and thus need not be found in refs.

because amendment changed scope of claim by introducing language into independent claim

Please call

Thanks

16. (Amended) A process for production of an artificial tooth substitute to be fitted on a prepared dental stump comprising the steps of:

selecting a preprepared ^{new matter?} block of porous ceramic material having a relative density ρ_R and an achievable relative density ρ_S after sintering;

scanning and digitizing a three-dimensional outer and inner surface of a positive model of a skeletal structure for the artificial tooth substitute to obtain data;

determining an enlargement factor (f) for the obtained data in accordance with the following

$$f = \sqrt[3]{\frac{\rho_S}{\rho_R}}$$

where ρ_R is the relative density of a preprepared blank and ρ_S is the achievable relative density after sintering;

enlarging the obtained data linearly in all direction by the enlargement factor (f) thereby compensating precisely for sinter shrinkage to obtain modified data for an enlarged model;

transferring the modified data to a control unit of a processing machine;

^{new matter?} \rightarrow processing a blank of the preprepared porous ceramic material in the processing machine and removing material therefrom to produce a design form of the enlarged model;

dense-sintering the design form of porous ceramic material

doesn't relate densities

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- block 6
- ① block "processing a blank of block" - new matter?
 - ② densities still not tied together
 - ③ achievable relative density?
 - ④ enlargement factor still not tied to specific blank

to obtain a skeletal structure having precise end dimensions;

and

facing the skeletal structure as desired to form the
artificial tooth substitute.